"'Practising throwing small spears, and other savage exercises, appear to be the whole education and employment of the children.' Beyond this statement of Davies (p. 412) we have no knowledge of the way in which their children were brought up. La Billardière 'observed in the children the greatest subordination to their parents' (II. ch. x. p. 60). The women had the entire care of the children, and the natives were extremely fond of their offspring (Van Diemen's Land Almanac, 1834, p. 78). On one occasion a French party alarmed the children, upon which La Billardière remarks (II. ch. x. pp. 54-55): 'The least of the children, frightened at the sight of such a number of Europeans, immediately took refuge in the arms of their mothers, who, lavished on them marks of the greatest affection. The fears of the children were soon removed; and they showed us, that they were not exempt from little passions, whence arose differences, to which the mothers almost immediately put an end by slight correction; but they soon found it necessary to stop their tears by caresses.' 'I shall not pass over in silence the correction a father gave one of his children for having thrown a stone at the back of another younger than himself: it was merely a light slap upon the shoulder, which made him shed tears, and prevented him doing so again' (Ibid. II. ch. x. p. 48). On the other hand, it is reported (Widowson, p. 190): 'So careless are they of their children, that it is not uncommon to see boys grown up, with feet exhibiting the loss of a toe or two, having, when infants, been dropped into the fire by the mother.'"